





JEAN MONNET CHAIR IN EU FOREIGN POLICY AND THE WESTERN BALKANS

2nd newsletter

April 2023-September 2023

This is the second newsletter of the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Foreign Policy and the Western Balkans. It is published every six months, and it provides brief information about the Chair's activities.

On June 1, 2023, the Jean Monnet Chair and SEE in Action co-hosted an online event exploring youth potential in Western Balkans' EU accession. Discussions on energy transition, media freedom, and brain drain took place with expert panels and participant engagement in breakout sessions for policy ideas. You can watch the video here.



Teaching activities

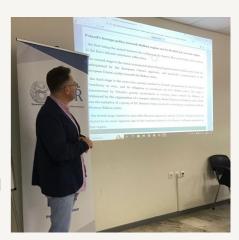
During the 2nd semester of the Jean Monnet Chair's activities, two courses were offered. Specifically:

The EU and Geopolitical Competition in the Western Balkans: The course examined EU involvement in the W.B, assessing efforts to promote stability, democracy, and economic development, and considering the impact of geopolitical competition with non-Western powers on peacebuilding and reforms in the region. The handbook of the course can be found here.

EU Enlargement Policy and the Western Balkans: The course evaluates the implementation of EU enlargement policy in the Western Balkans, assessing progress and reflecting on subsequent revisions to fine-tune the policy to the region's specific challenges. The course's handbook is here.

Guest lectures

"Polish foreign policy towards Eastern neighbors and the Balkan states" by Artur Adamczyk, May 9, 2023. You can read more here.



Seminars

Research Methods in EU Studies

The first seminar, "Research Methods in EU Studies for postgraduate students," introduced tools for qualitative research in EU affairs. Students learned how to use concepts, theories, desk research, document analysis, and expert interviews to understand how the EU operates.

The second seminar, "Research Methods in EU Studies for PhD students," aimed to discuss the application of research processes in social sciences. It focused on exploring the dynamics of EU integration through different lenses and perspectives.







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Outreach activities/News

Nikolaos Tzifakis participated as speaker in the event **"The geopolitics of the green energy transition in the Balkans",** in the European Policy Centre, in Brussels, on 24 May 2023. You can read more <u>here</u>.





Nikolaos Tzifakis and Anastasis Valvis published A missed opportunity? Civil society organisations in Greece and North Macedonia after the 2015 refugee crisis, ÖGfE Policy Brief, 16' 2023. You can read more here.

Anastasis Valvis participated in the OSCE regional meeting "Climate change and security in South Eastern Europe: Tackling challenges at the interface of air pollution and health" on 21 September. You can read more here.

OSCE initiates regional dialogue in South-Eastern Europe on interconnections of climate change, air pollution and health, inspiring local action







info.jmc.eufpwb@gmail.com



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